

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01055 01 OF 02 240946Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----240947 025026 /10

P R 240830Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 1055

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KU
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF KUWAIT FONMIN ON MEETING WITH SECRETARY
IN RIYADH

REF: KUWAIT 1001

1. SUMMARY: I REVIEWED WITH FONMIN SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD
AL-JABER AL-SABAH HIGHLIGHTS OF SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION AT
MEETING OF PERSIAN GULF CHIEFS OF MISSION AT RIYADH FEB. 20.
I ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT I HAD CONVEYED TO SECRETARY HIS
RECOMMENDATION THAT USG ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH
PLO AS BEST WAY TO CONVINCE PALESTINIANS TO RECOGNIZE
EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND ACCEPT UN RESOLUTIONS AS BASIS FOR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01055 01 OF 02 240946Z

GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. I RELATED THE PRELIMINARY
REACTION OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS, NOTING THAT, WITHOUT ANY
FORTHCOMING INDICATIONS FROM PLO, US ACTION ALONG LINES HE
SUGGESTED WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT UPON US RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL AND POSSIBLY AFFECT PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD
MIDDLE EAST PEACE. I REPORTED SECRETARY HAD SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH
SUBSTANTIVE GAPS AMONG POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS WERE WIDE, AND

SERIOUS PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS STILL NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED, A SERIOUS EFFORT TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM MUST BE MADE. ALL LEADERS HE HAD CONTACTED UP TO RIYADH HAD AGREED THAT THE AIM SHOULD BE TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE FALL OF 1977. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING UP MEETING THAT I HELD WITH KUWAIT FONMIN SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-JABER AL-SABAH ON FEB. 14 PRIOR TO MY ATTENDANCE AT PERSIAN GULF CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN RIYADH FEB. 20, I MET AGAIN WITH FONMIN FEB. 23 TO REVIEW WITH HIM HIGHLIGHTS OF SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION AT THAT MEETING AND OTHER PERTINENT POINTS OF INTEREST WHICH AROSE DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION. I CONVEYED TO SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY AND INDICATED THAT LATTER WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO MEET.

3. I COMMENCED MY BRIEFING OF FONMIN BY RECALLING THAT SECRETARY HAD MENTIONED AT OUTSET THAT, BESIDES NEED FOR PEACE, GOVERNMENT LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAD MET ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES. THEY RELATED NEED FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE TO HEAVY BURDEN OF ARMAMENTS WHICH THEY WERE FORCED TO MAINTAIN UNTIL SUCH PEACE WERE ACHIEVED. THEIR PROBLEM WITH HIGH COST OF OIL SUPPLIES IN THIS CONNECTION WAS ALSO NOTED.

4. I EXPLAINED TO FONMIN THAT SECRETARY SAW THREE CORE ELEMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE, (B) WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01055 01 OF 02 240946Z

(C) PALESTINIAN QUESTION. HE REMARKED UPON DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITH RESPECT TO NATURE OF PEACE, AND GAP BETWEEN CONCEPTS OF END OF STATE OF BELIGERENCY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS. SECRETARY ALSO COMMENTED ON DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON EXTENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. RE PALESTINIAN QUESTION THERE WERE ALSO SERIOUS DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO HANDLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BOTH BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND ALSO WITHIN THE ARAB GROUP. OVERALL, THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL GAPS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. HOWEVER, SECRETARY NOTED READINESS OF ALL NATIONS WITH WHOM HE HAD HAD CONTACT TO GO TO GENEVA WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS, PROVIDED THAT PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CONFERENCE COULD BE RESOLVED.

5. I EXPLAINED THAT PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OBVIOUSLY INCLUDED PLO REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE. I CONFIRMED TO SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD THAT I HAD CONVEYED HIS VIEW ON NEED FOR US TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH PLO IN

ORDER TO CONVINCE LATTER TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL
AND ACCEPT UN RESOLUTIONS 224 AND 338 AS BASIS FOR GENEVA
CONFERENCE. I OBSERVED THAT HIS RECOMMENDATION SPARKED
ACTIVE DISCUSSION AMONG PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING. HOWEVER
THE BASIC ISSUES AFFECTING HIS PROPOSAL WERE STILL
SAME TWO POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE. I NOTED IN THIS
CONNECTION THAT COMMENTS MADE BY YASSER ARAFAT DURING HIS
VISIT TO KUWAIT ON SAME DATE AS OUR RIYADH MEETING WERE
NOT VERY HELPFUL TO FONMIN'S PROPOSITION (SEE REFTEL).

6. SABAH AL-AHMAD STATED QUITE BLUNTLY THAT ARAFAT NO
LONGER IS IMPORTANT IN PALESTINE EQUATION. HE CONSIDERED
THAT ARAFAT'S USEFULNESS TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE HAD PROBABLY
REACHED ITS END AND INFLUENCE OF YOUNGER PALESTINIAN LEADER
WOULD SOON BECOME APPARENT. SABAH AL-AHMAD ADDED THAT

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01055 02 OF 02 240923Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----240926 024735 /12

P R 240830Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7360
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 1055

EXDIS

HE HIMSELF HAD CHIDED ARAFAT ON HIS COMMENTS TO THE PRESS,
WHICH WERE QUITE THE OPPOSITE FROM THE MODERATE COMMENTS
ARAFAT HAD MADE DURING THEIR MEETING, BUT ARAFAT SAID THAT
HE HAD TO MAKE THESE STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS
POSITION IN PLO.

7. I NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME MOVEMENT IN A FAVORABLE DIRECTION AT THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH IN CAIRO. SABAH AL-AHMAD REMARKED THAT SADAT HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER PALESTINIANS AND THAT HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH MOVEMENT. ONLY SYRIA PRESENTLY EXERCISED ANY INFLUENCE OVER PALESTINIANS AND THIS WAS BECAUSE LATTER WERE FEARFUL OF SYRIAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01055 02 OF 02 240923Z

MILITARY MIGHT.

8. I TOLD SABAH AL-AHMAD THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEADERS CONSULTED BY THE SECRETARY TO AIM FOR A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE FALL OF 1977. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY CAREFUL PREPARATORY WORK AND, OF COURSE, THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WOULD NEED TO BE RESOLVED BEFOREHAND. THE SECRETARY SHARED SOME OF KING HUSSAIN'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE DANGER OF OVER-OPTIMISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION OVER THE EFFORTS OF THE USG AND OTHERS TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE. HE CALLED FOR "WISE CAUTION" AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SUCH PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE MUST BE MADE.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT01055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770064-0042
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770214/aaaaamdp.tel
Line Count: 201
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a96cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 1001
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3243249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING OF KUWAIT FONMIN ON MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN RIYADH
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, KU, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (SABAH, SABAH AL-AHMAD AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a96cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009